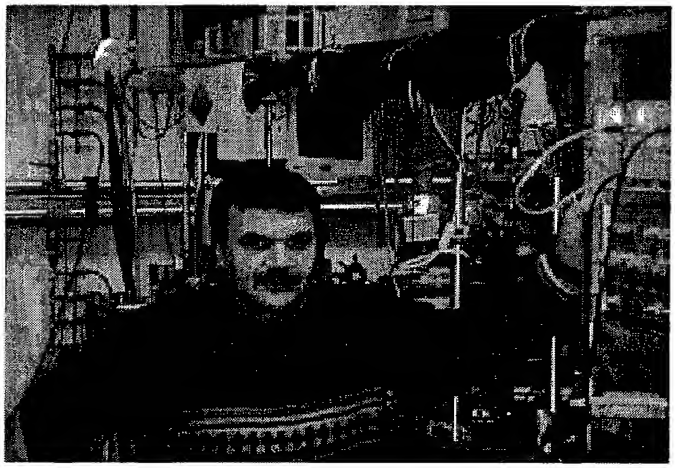
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/550,536

Valerio Romano wasb orn in Italy and is Swiss citizen. He received the physicsM .Sc. degree in 1989 and the Ph.D. degree in 1991 from the University of Bern, Switzerland.

As a post-doc he was engaged in surgical applications ofi nfrared laser radiation and on the basic research of the interaction between laser radiation and biological materials as well as in sensor systems in the laser surgery group.



In 1994 he joined the Laser-Materials processing group where he workedo n the applications of short near infrared laser pulses for the processing of ceramics and metals. In 1998 he was nominated head of the laser materials processing group. From 2000 to 2004 he was involved in the NCCR "Quantum Photonics" subproject "High powerf iber lasers".

His current main research topics are i) microstructured fibers for laser applications, ii) the optical properties ofl uminescent materials as well as iii) fundamental pulsed laser-materials interaction processes including ablative and generative modifications of materials by pulsed laser radiation.

Starting from 2008, besides his project leaderp osition at the IAP of the University of Bern, he holds a physics lecturer position at the Berne University ofA pplied Sciences. He is also coordinator of the "Kompetenzzentrum Fasern und Faserlaser", a joint laboratory in the field of optical fibers of both institutions.

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